

Members are advised that the text should be available for their review on both the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Rules Web sites by Friday, March 28.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted in the most appropriate format. Members are also advised to check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the Rules of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 735, THE POSTAL CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM FUNDING REFORM ACT OF 2003

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet next week to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 735, the Postal Civil Service Retirement System Funding Reform Act of 2003.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy with a brief explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules in H-312 of the Capitol by 4 p.m. on Monday, March 31. Members should draft their amendments to the bill as ordered by the Committee on Government Reform on March 6. Members are advised that the text should be available for their review on the Web site of the Committee on Rules later today.

Members should use the Office of the Legislative Counsel to make sure that their amendments are properly drafted in the most appropriate format. Members are also advised to check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the Rules of the House.

LAYING ON THE TABLE H. RES. 152

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that House Resolution 152 be laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the judicial conferees on S. 151 may be announced later.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I take this time for the purpose of inquiring of the schedule of the distinguished majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), and I yield to the majority leader.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the House will convene on Monday at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. We will consider several measures under suspension of the rules. A final list of those bills will be sent to Members' offices by the end of the week. Any votes called on these bills will be rolled until 6:30 p.m. on Monday.

On Tuesday, we expect to consider several additional bills under suspension of the rules, including legislation that will provide relief from student loan payments to our men and women currently serving in the Middle East. We would also hope to go to conference on the 2004 budget resolution.

For Wednesday and the balance of the week, we have several measures that we will consider under a rule. Those include H.R. 522, a bill to reauthorize the Federal Deposit Insurance Program; H.R. 735, which would alter the method used to calculate Postal Service contributions to the Federal Employee Pension System; and H.R. 743, the Social Security Protection Act.

Finally, next week, we hope to be considering the Fiscal Year 2003 War Supplemental that was requested by the President earlier this week. I believe that the Committee on Appropriations has tentatively scheduled a markup of this legislation for Tuesday.

Now, Members should be aware, while I remain hopeful that we could consider this legislation on the floor on Thursday, I know that this schedule would disrupt the traditional 3-day layover practice by the Committee on Appropriations, but if the supplemental is not available for floor consideration on Thursday, Members should be advised we would be in session next Friday to consider this very important bill.

I thank the gentleman for yielding. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his information.

Following up on what he said at the end of his statement, am I to understand that if the supplemental is passed on Thursday, it is the gentleman's expectation we will not be in next Friday?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, the gentleman is correct. If we can get the supplemental passed by the House by Thursday, we would not be in on Friday. But Members need to be advised that the President has asked the bipartisan leadership to try to get the supplemental to his desk before the Easter break, and we have to get it done next week in order to accomplish that.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

I would say to the distinguished majority leader, having talked to the ranking member and former chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), I think if we can reach a bipar-

tisan agreement, we too want to make sure that we provide the appropriate resources for our men and women in harm's way to assure them that there is going to be no reluctance on our part to accomplish that effort. But I emphasize that my belief is that if we can reach a bipartisan agreement, and I am hopeful, I know the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) can accomplish that; and if the leadership would help in accomplishing that objective, I think that would be a worthy objective for our country and for this House.

The budget conference and conferees, does the gentleman know when they will be appointed? I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

We are hoping to go to conference and name conferees on Monday, if we can get the papers from the Senate. Right now we could have done it today, but we are waiting for the papers to come over from the other body, and they tell us it will be very difficult to get those papers to us by Monday. But if we can get everything straight, then we will go to conference on Monday. If not, we will have to wait until Tuesday.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Leader, the reason I was looking to staff, obviously, as the gentleman well knows, if we are not going to go in until 6:30 and we will probably do suspension bills that night, clearly, if we go to conference, a motion to instruct would be in order; and I think it would be our intention to offer such a motion.

Therefore, having notice at this juncture, or I understand the gentleman's not having specific knowledge of when the papers are going to come over, but I might say to the gentleman that if we can have some specificity, and apparently Tuesday we will have the papers, the gentleman is reasonably confident, perhaps we could agree that it would be then Tuesday so that on our side we could plan to have the motion to which we would be entitled ready and available at that time.

□ 1400

Mr. DELAY. I thank the gentleman for his comment, Mr. Speaker. We want to make sure that the minority protects their rights and reserves their rights to proceed to a motion to instruct.

My assumption is that we will have what we need to go to conference on the floor of this House no later than Tuesday, and we have every anticipation that we will be going to conference on Tuesday, but we would like to go a day earlier. As the gentleman knows, there is a lot of legislation we would like to do in the next 2 weeks, and floor time is at a premium.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's view. I share that view. We want to try to get this done. I am going to ask him about the week following.

I understand floor time is at a premium, but we are not going to meet, apparently, on Friday if we get the supplemental done in a timely fashion, so we are not going to be using that time.

My only point is that if we do not know until Monday at noontime or Monday at 10 o'clock, it makes it more difficult for us. Frankly, I think it would be appropriate if the gentleman could perhaps agree that this will be on Tuesday, because he is not sure it is going to get over on Monday. I think that puts us in a little better shape.

Mr. DELAY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, Mr. Speaker, we will inform the leadership of the minority as soon as we know. We are urging the other body to move quickly, and we will keep the leadership of the minority informed at every step of this process so their side will have plenty of notice. Hopefully, we will have this decision done by tomorrow, and the gentleman will have plenty of time to do his planning.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman, Mr. Speaker.

Reclaiming my time again, Mr. Speaker, and I do not want to beat this dead horse too badly, but on Monday my presumption is that the only votes at 6:30 are suspension votes; is that correct?

Mr. DELAY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, that is correct, unless we try to go to conference on the budget. We would have a motion to instruct.

Mr. HOYER. Would we do that subsequent to the vote on the suspensions, or in the afternoon? Obviously, the problem with the afternoon is most Members, as the gentleman knows, come back in time for the vote, Members flying from the West Coast. So there are those complications.

Would the gentleman inform me as to what the intent would be, either before the 6:30 suspension votes or after?

Mr. DELAY. If the gentleman will yield, Mr. Speaker, I would suspect that certainly, with the gentleman's agreement, that we could start the process around 5 or 5:30 and wait on the votes until we have finished voting on the suspensions; or we could start the debate on the motion to instruct after the vote on the suspensions. We will be glad to work with the gentleman on how we do that, whatever is most convenient to the Members.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. We will discuss this with the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT), the ranking member. I am sure the gentleman will want to discuss it with the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) as well. Hopefully, we can reach an agreement so all Members can be accommodated to participate in that important debate.

Mr. Leader, the partial birth abortion bill, I understand that was marked up yesterday. Does the gentleman know when that will be coming to the

floor? Is it going to be next week or the week after?

Mr. DELAY. If the gentleman will yield, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct, the Committee on the Judiciary reported this legislation out early this week. We would like to consider this bill in the very near future, but, as I mentioned earlier, over the next 2 weeks floor time is going to be at very much a premium. We would like to do it, but it looks like in trying to assess what the needs of the House are for the next 2 weeks we are not going to be able to get to this bill before the Easter break. It is more likely that we will consider the bill in May.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that response.

The smallpox vaccination compensation bill, I know there are ongoing discussions. It is my understanding, from what I have heard the gentleman say, that the expectation is that is not going to be on the calendar next week.

Mr. DELAY. If the gentleman will yield, Mr. Speaker, he may remember that last week during our discussion I mentioned that we are trying to move forward on a product under a very tight time frame that all Members could support. We really would like to see this bill come to the floor in a bipartisan way.

I understand the gentleman from Louisiana (Chairman TAUZIN) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), have had daily, if not hourly, discussions on this legislation and at times have become very close to a compromise that all Members could likely support. The bill was pulled from consideration this week primarily because the interested parties believe that the differences on the issues are minimal now and that more time could in fact yield a reasonable compromise.

I would just note for the gentleman that this is a relatively small authorization for a fund that would serve a very targeted community, and usually the House considers legislation of this nature under suspensions of the rules. I would hope that we could bring this bill under suspension as soon as possible.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the leader, and we have had this discussion before, we are all hopeful, I think, that the discussions between the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS), who is on the floor, who has been such a leader in this legislation, and others on the gentleman's side of the aisle could come and reach agreement.

However, if an agreement could not be reached, the problem is with the Suspension Calendar that it allows no amendments and therefore allows of no alternative possibilities to be considered by the whole House.

We would hope that if this matter cannot be resolved, and we are hopeful

that it can, and I know I speak for the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS), she is hopeful that it can, and I think I speak for the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) as well, that they would like to reach agreement; but if agreement cannot be reached, I would urge the majority leader to bring this bill to the floor with the procedure that allows for alternative proposals to be considered by the whole House.

Mr. DELAY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, Mr. Speaker, I do understand his concerns. We are working very, very hard on this bill. I think we can bring this bill to the floor. It is needed.

Frankly, we have been working on it for way too long. It should have been passed weeks ago. I have every confidence that we can bring a bill to the floor that will get an overwhelming vote by this House.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. We all agree that this bill is needed. We also all know that the President's expectation of the number of people who would have gotten the smallpox vaccination at this point in time, particularly as it relates to first responders, nurses, police, emergency medical technicians, would have been far higher than it has been to date, so we are trying to facilitate that.

Clearly, the passage of this bill would be facilitated by having a bipartisan agreement that will not be contentious. But of course, as the gentleman knows, at the nub of this issue is how substantively we can accomplish the objective of getting as many of our nurses and police and emergency response personnel to voluntarily participate in this vaccination process.

So, again, I would urge the gentleman, if we cannot reach agreement, let the floor consider alternatives and let them decide, the floor, the Members of this House, as to what procedures and process and compensation will best facilitate that end. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the leader, regarding the tax bill, I know the gentleman mentioned it, but when does he anticipate that coming to the floor?

Mr. DELAY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman knows we are sort of at the mercy of the other body. The quicker we can complete a conference report on the budget, the quicker we can move the economic growth package. We are working as hard as we can to convince the Committee on the Budget, the budget committees of both houses, to work through the weekend, work all through next week, so we can bring the conference report to the floor.

If that happens, then we know what we have to deal with; and I would hope

that this House could bring the economic growth and jobs creation package to the floor before the Easter break.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments, Mr. Speaker.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,
MARCH 31, 2003

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, March 31, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

PAYING HOMAGE TO CORPORAL
JOSE ANGEL GARIBAY, AN
AMERICAN HERO

(Mr. ROHRABACHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay homage and respect to Corporal Jose Angel Garibay, a 21-year-old Marine killed in action in Iraq a few days ago.

Jose Garibay was a proud American of Mexican American descent. He is now an American hero. He was born in Jalisco, Mexico. His family moved to California while he was still a baby. Like almost all Americans, his family came here seeking opportunity and freedom.

Corporal Garibay grew up in Costa Mesa, California. He exemplified what anyone would call an all-American kid. He was a source of joy and pride to his family. He was a star football player on the Newport Harbor High School football team; and he joined the Marines 3 years ago, shortly after graduating from high school.

He was a loving son to his mother, Simona; and he had hoped to use his military pay to help his mother buy a house. He put his own family first and foremost in his life, and through his sacrifice for our Nation in this war against tyranny and terrorism he proved that love of country and love of family are inseparably linked.

Corporal Garibay, his supreme sacrifice will not be forgotten. He will be remembered alongside the many brave American heroes who have gone before

him in defending family, freedom, and country.

Today we send our greatest sympathy to the Garibay family. May God's love and the gratitude of our Nation comfort them and comfort the families of all of our fallen heroes.

JIM RICHARDSON POST OFFICE
DESIGNATION IN CHARLOTTE,
NORTH CAROLINA

(Mr. WATT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, later today, with the bipartisan unanimous support of the members of the North Carolina delegation, I will be dropping a bill to rename the United States Post Office at 2127 Beatties Ford Road in Charlotte, North Carolina, in honor of Jim Richardson, one of my constituents.

James Franklin Richardson, Sr., known by most people simply as Jim, was born in 1926 in Charlotte. In 1949, Jim began a 33-year career with the United States Postal Service. During his 33-year career, Jim had numerous positions, including Postal Service Clerk in the Charlotte Post Office and Railway Postal Service Worker. He subsequently held a number of supervisory positions and retired as the U.S. Postmaster in Mt. Holly, North Carolina, receiving a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Postal Service.

I honor him today and will drop this bill. I ask for support from my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Richardson, a man who has dedicated a lifetime to making the world around him a better place. As a lasting tribute to Jim's dedication to his country, his community and to the State of North Carolina I will shortly introduce legislation to designate the United States Post Office at 2127 Beatties Ford Road in Charlotte, North Carolina as the "Jim Richardson Post Office."

Mr. James Franklin Richardson, Sr., known by most people simply as "Jim," was born on May 20, 1926 in Charlotte, North Carolina. He grew up in Charlotte where he attended Isabella Wyche Elementary and graduated from Second Ward High. Jim served in the United States Navy during World War II and, following an honorable discharge, attended Johnson C. Smith University, where he graduated in 1949 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education and General Science.

In 1949 Jim began a 33-year career with the United States Postal Service. During his 33-year career, Jim held numerous positions within the Postal Service, including serving as Postal Service Clerk in the Charlotte Post Office and later as a clerk with the Railway Postal Service, where he served on many train routes. When mail routes on trains were eliminated, Jim returned to the Charlotte Post Office and held a number of supervisory positions. He served the last eight years of his tenure as U.S. Postmaster in Mt. Holly, North Carolina and received a Certificate of Appreciation from the United States Postal Service in Recognition of Exceptional Performance in the Interest of Improved Postal Service.

In 1985 Jim was elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives, where he served one two-year term before being elected to the North Carolina Senate in the Senate District I previously represented. He served four terms in the state Senate before his retirement in 1994. With strong, bi-partisan encouragement, Jim ran for and was elected to the Mecklenburg County Commission where he served six years. There are few people I know in North Carolina who enjoy the kind of bi-partisan admiration Jim has that I believe results from his affable demeanor, willingness to work on issues across party lines and willingness to vote his convictions without regard to partisan expectations.

I hope this House will join me by honoring Jim Richardson for his civility and for his role as a true American patriot, a great communicator and a tireless voice for the voiceless.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to proceed with my special order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

THE LACK OF FEDERAL RESOURCES ALLOCATED TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT, AMERICA'S FRONT LINE IN THE WAR ON TERRORISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the lack of Federal resources being allocated to local law enforcement officials, our front line in our war on terrorism.

Several weeks ago, I sent out an e-mail asking first responders from my district to attend a brown bag lunch to discuss the challenges they face. With less than 24 hours' notice, nearly 60 law enforcement officials and fire professionals changed their schedules and attended this meeting.

While in nearly every case they support the administration's efforts on terrorism, as do I, to an individual they were disappointed in the lack of resources provided by their Federal